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Hemidactylum Tschudi
Four-toed salamander

Hemidactylum Tschudi, 1838:59. Type-species *Salamandra* [andrea] *scutata* Schlegel in Temminck, Schlegel, & de Haan [1833-1850] 1833, by monotypy.

Cotobates Gistel, 1848:xi. Replacement name for *Hemidactylum*, proposed in the erroneous belief that *Hemidactylum* was preoccupied by *Hemidactylus* Oken, 1817, a lizard.

Desmodactylus Duméril, Bibron, & Duméril, 1854:117. Replacement name for *Hemidactylum*. See REMARKS.

Dermodactylus David, 1871:95. Incorrect subsequent spelling of *Desmodactylus*, without status in nomenclature.

• CONTENT. One species is recognized, *Hemidactylum scutatum* (Schlegel in Temminck, Schlegel, & de Haan). *Dermodactylus* [= *Desmodactylus*] *pinchonii* David (1871) is based on an Asiatic hynobiid salamander, and *Hemidactylum pacificum* Cope (1865) is now placed in *Batrachoseps*.

• DEFINITION. The premaxillae have long, separate, nasal processes enclosing a fontanelle; the tongue is broadly attached in front; the hindfoot is 4-toed; the habitus is much as in *Plethodon cinereus*, not vermiform; and the tail has a basal constriction. Larvae are aquatic, with a dorsal fin extending onto the body.

• DESCRIPTIONS, DISTRIBUTION, FOSSIL RECORD, and PERTINENT LITERATURE. See *Hemidactylum scutatum*.

• NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY. The generic name *Hemidactylum* has been in general use since the 1850's; *Cotobates* and *Desmodactylus* were never widely accepted.

• REMARKS. Dunn (1926:196), followed by Stejneger & Barbour (e.g. 1939:17), Schmidt (1953:41), and others, attributed the name *Hemidactylum* to Tschudi as author, citing the date as 1838, but the place of publication as the Mémoires de la Société des Sciences Naturelles de Neuchâtel. This is incorrect. Tschudi's 1838 paper was a preprint (which has nomenclatural standing); the article did not appear in the Mémoires until 1840. See Schulze & Kükenthal (1926) and Sherborn (1927).

Some nomenclators imply that J. Gistel and J. Gistel were different authors. Neave (1939) and Sherborn (1927) indicate one writer on *Hemidactylum* to have been "Gistel"; but Schulze & Kükenthal (1926), who were in a better position to know, indicate "Gistel" to have been the writer on this salamander.

The name *Desmodactylus*, first appearing in volume 9 of *Erpétologie Générale*, was credited to "Duméril & Bibron" by Dunn (1926:196) and others. However, volumes 7 (both parts), 9, and the Atlas of the *Erpétologie Générale* were by A.-M.-C. Duméril, G. Bibron, & A. H. A. Duméril. The other volumes were by A.-M.-C. Duméril & G. Bibron only.

The name *Dermodactylus* David was not considered by Stejneger & Barbour (e.g. 1939:17) or Schmidt (1953:41).

Hemidactylum has been misspelled as "*Hemidactylum*" on several occasions, but the misspellings have no nomenclatural standing and need not be cited.

• ETYMOLOGY. The name *Hemidactylum* is from Latin *hemi-* or Greek *hēmi-*, signifying "half"; and Greek *daktylion*, neuter of *daktylios*, signifying "dactylion," an old medical term for fusion of the digits. The allusion is to the reduced number of digits on the hindfoot.

Hemidactylum is of neuter gender.

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